

Explanation to the Beautiful and Perfect Names of Allāh

Extracted from Taysīr al-Karīm al-Raḥmān

by Shaykh Abū ‘Abdu-r-Raḥmān Nāṣir as-Sa‘dī (d1376H)

Translated from the Original Arabic by
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DAAR US-SUNNAH PUBLISHERS

BIRMINGHAM

First Published in Great Britain in April 2008 / Rabi Al-Thani 1429H
by Daar us-Sunnah Publishers



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British Library Cataloguing in publication Data.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Title: Explanation to the Beautiful and Perfect Names of Allāh
by: Abū 'Abdu-r-Raḥmān Nāṣir as-Sa'dī (d1376H)
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ISBN 1-904336-24-8
Paper-back

First Edition 1429AH/2008CE
Typeset by: Daar us-Sunnah Publishers
Printed by: Karra Design & Print

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Transliteration Table

Consonants, Arabic

initial: unexpressed medial and final:

ء '	د d	ض ḍ	ك k
ب b	ذ dh	ط ṭ	ل l
ت t	ر r	ظ ṣ	م m
ث th	ز z	ع ʿ	ن n
ج j	س s	غ gh	ه h
ح ḥ	ش sh	ف f	و w
خ kh	ص ṣ	ق q	ي y

Vowels, diphthongs, etc.

Short:	ا a	ي i	و u
long:	آ ā	ي ī	و ū
diphthongs:	أ aw		
	أَي ay		

Translator's Introduction

All praise and thanks are due to Allāh, we praise Him, seek His help and ask Him for forgiveness. Whoever Allāh guides, none can misguide and whoever Allāh leaves to stray, none can guide. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship save Allāh alone, who has no partner and I bear witness that Muḥammad (ﷺ) is His servant and Messenger.

Allāh, the Exalted says,

وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا وَذُرُوا الَّذِينَ يُلْحِدُونَ فِي أَسْمَائِهِ سَيُجْزَوْنَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٨٠﴾

To Allāh belong the most beautiful and perfect Names, so invoke Him by them. Abandon those who desecrate His Names, they will be recompensed for what they did.

[*al-A'raf* (7): 180]

'From the most noble and lofty stations of cognisance is to know the Lord, the Glorious, through His beauty. This is the knowledge possessed by the elite of this creation. All of them know Him through an Attribute from amongst His Attributes

Taysir al-Latif al-Mannan in tafsir; al-Qawā'id al-Hisān li Tafsir al-Qur'an in principles of exegesis; Hāshiyah 'alā al-Fiqh and Irshād Uḥ-l-Albāb in fiqh; al-Haqq al-Wāḍiḥ al-Mubīn, Tawḍīḥ al-Kāfiyah ash-Shāfiyah, al-Qawl as-Sadīd fī Maqāṣid at-Tawḥīd in belief.

- The author passed away in 'Unayzah in the year 1376H, may Allāh have mercy upon him.

Explanation to the Beautiful and Perfect Names of Allāh

A large number of the Beautiful Names of Allāh are repeated manifold in the Qur'an as demanded by the occasion and it is necessary to explain their meanings in a succinct and comprehensive way. So we say:

الرَّبُّ

Ar-Rabb (The Lord and Cherisher)

This name has been repeatedly mentioned in many verses.

Ar-Rabb is the one who nurtures and sustains all of His servants through regulating and governing their affairs and granting them all types of favours and blessings. More specifically, He is the one who nurtures and sustains his sincere friends by correcting and purifying their hearts, souls and manners. This is why their supplications are frequently made with this noble Name

because they seek this specific nurturing.

وَرَبُّكَ
الْغَفُورُ ذُو الرِّحْمَةِ لَوْ يُؤَاخِذُهُمْ بِمَا كَسَبُوا الْعَجَلَ لَهُمْ
الْعَذَابُ بَلْ لَهُمْ مَوْعِدٌ لَّنْ يَجْدُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ مَوْيلاً ﴿٥٨﴾

And your Rabb is the Ever-Forgiving, Owner of Mercy. Were He to call them to account for what they had earned, surely He would have hastened on their punishment. Instead they have their appointed time beyond which they will find no escape.

[*Al-Kahf* (18): 58]

الله

Allāh

He is the one and only deity, the one who is worshipped and the one who deserves to be worshipped by the whole of His creation. This is due to the perfect and beautiful godly Attributes that He is described with.

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ
الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا
فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا

شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا
وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٢٥٥﴾

Allāh! There is none worthy of worship but He, the Living, the Self-Sustaining. He is not subject to drowsiness or. To Him belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and the earth. Who is there that can intercede with Him except with His Permission? He Knows what is before them and what is behind them, but they cannot encompass anything of His Knowledge except that which He Wills. His Footstool encompasses the heavens and the earth and he feels no fatigue in preserving them. He is the Most High, the Most Great.

[*al-Baqarah* (2): 255]

الْمَلِكُ

al-Malik (The King)

الْمَالِكُ

al-Mālik (The Master and Owner)

الَّذِي لَهُ الْمُلْكُ

Alladhī lahu-l-Mulk (the One to Whom belongs the dominion)

He is described with the Attribute of being the Master and Owner. These are Attributes describing His grandeur, glory and majesty, omnipotence and His governance and regulation of the affairs. He is the one who directs all of the affairs to do with creation, command and recompense. To Him belongs the whole of creation, all of it is subservient to Him, owned by Him and in continuous need of Him.

فَعَلَى اللَّهِ الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ وَلَا تَعْجَلْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مِنْ قَبْلِ أَنْ
يُقْضَى إِلَيْكَ وَحْيُهُ وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا ﴿١١٤﴾

Then High exalted be Allāh, al-Malik, the Truth. Do not be in haste with the Qur'ān before its revelation is completed to you and say, 'My Lord! Increase me in knowledge.'

[Tā Hā (20): 114]

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمُلْكِ تُؤْتِي الْمُلْكَ
مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمُلْكَ مِمَّنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ
مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٣٦﴾

Say: O Allāh! Mālik of the kingdom, You give sovereignty to whom You will and You take sovereignty from whom You will. You exalt whom You will and You humiliate whom You will. In your Hand is [all] good, indeed You have power over all things.

[Āli 'Imrān (3): 26]

الَّذِي لَهُ الْمُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ ﴿٩﴾

Alladhī lahu-l-Mulk of the heavens and the earth! And Allāh is Witness over everything.

[al-Burūj (85): 9]

الْوَاحِدُ

al-Wāḥid

الْأَحَدُ

al-Aḥad (The One)

He is the one who is singled out in all aspects of perfection such that nothing else shares with Him in these. It is obligatory upon the servants to single Him out alone in belief, saying and action by acknowledging His unrestricted perfection, His unique-